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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 851R.50/4 FOR Despatch #1730

FROM Great Britain (Atherton) DATED March 6, 1931
TO NAME 1-1172 ...

REGARDING: Publication issued by the Department of Overseas Trade,
entitled ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN ALGERIA AND IN TRIPOLITANIA,
1929-30.

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865C.50/1

MILITARY ATTACHE

American Embassy

ROME, ITALY

G-2 Report

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RECEIVED DEPARTMENT

ITALY (Military)

Subject : Distribution of Troops.
Military Operations in Libya.

On December 10, 1930 the Italian press released the following account of a skirmish between Italian Saharian troops and a band of outlaws. The affair took place on November 23rd in the Syrtis region south of the Gulf of Sidra (Libya) :

" Coming from Gufra, a band of outlaws (Senussi rebels) consisting mainly of Mogarbas and Uldi Suleimans, had pushed forward into the Syrtis region for the purpose of plundering. They were commanded by the son of the well known Mogarba chief Salah El Ateuse.

" Our military posts, on being advised of the rebel move, immediately sent detachments with the mission of carrying out intensive combing operations beginning at Mufilia and Zella. On the morning of the 23rd November a large patrol of four Saharian groups surprised and routed the outlaw band. The enemy beat a hasty retreat in the direction of Gife (thirtieth parallel) leaving 7 dead and 2 rifles. Lieutenant Gius, commanding the patrol, led his troops in a hot and continuous pursuit over a distance of one hundred kilometers and lasting for 22 hours until he had succeeded in wiping out the remaining band of outlaws. As a result of his action 40 were killed, among which was the son of Salah El Ateuse, and 26 rifles were captured. "

COMMENT :

In view of the preliminary operations mentioned in ITALY No. 12200-3030, October 30, 1930, this office has daily expected to hear of the big drive on the GUFRA oasis. As everything we hear indicates that nearly all the recruits to the rebel cause come from that region it hardly seems likely that the Italians have abandoned their plans to clean up the GUFRA oasis this winter. On the other hand there is the possibility in view of the expense attached to large operations that they have decided to take matters slowly and exterminate the rebels piecemeal.

James L. Collins,
Major, General Staff, U.S.A.,
Military Attaché.

INDEXED
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